(ii) Guaranteed pensionary benefits.

(iii) Removal of limitation period of six months for exercising option for joining the Pension Scheme.

(iv) Extension of Children pension to married daughters,.

(v) Option for contribution above statutory limit.

(d) and (e) No, Sir. There is no bar on the employees opting and contributing to the revised Pension Scheme provided option is exercised as per the Scheme provisions.

Increase of shifts in factories

2581. SHRI C. PERUMAL: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to increase from three shifts to four shifts in factories to reduce unemployment problem to some extent;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Factories work as per their requirement and infrastructure available. Ministry of Labour & Employment does not have any proposal to increase or decrease the number of shifts.

ILO's rate for employment opportunity

2582. SHRI N. R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have evolved any strategy to bring the workers in the main stream due to hardship/challenges being faced by the unorganised sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the ILO has undertaken any projects to bring into the developing countries, including India, with the objective of creating more employment opportunities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRA SEKHAR RAO): (a) and (b) The Government has taken several initiatives to bring the unorganised workers in the main stream. There are certain legislations like the Minimum Wages Act, 1948; the Workmen's Compensation Act, 1923; the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961; the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976; Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952; the Building and other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment & Conditions of Service) Act, 1996 etc. which are partially or fully applicable to these workers. The Government has also set up Welfare Funds to provide social security/welfare measures to certain categories of workers *i.e.* beedi workers, certain non-coal mine workers and cine workers. The Government has introduced the National Rural Employment Guarantee Bill during last session of the Parliament. The objective of the Bill is to guarantee at least 100 days of employment in a year, to atleast one person in every rural household on asset creating public works programmes. The Government has also launched a new wage employment scheme namely National Food For Works Programme (NFFWP) in 150 most backward districts of 27 States of the country to generate supplementary wage employment and provide food security through creation of need based economic, social and community assets in these districts. The NFFWP is open to the rural poor who are in need of wage employment and desire to do manual unskilled work. This programme will be replaced by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, the Bill for which has been introduced in the Parliament.

(c) and (d) ILO is implementing a Pilot Project on "Decent Employment for Women in India" along with Directorate General of Employment & Training. The objective of this project is to provide Vocational Skills to Women for their better employability. The aim of the project as such is not for creating more employment opportunities but fetching only better employment opportunities.

Number of unskilled labourers

2583. SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state: